

AREA: Cathedral Hill

MAGI NO.: 0421615711

Address: 314 North Charles Street

Current Name: Oscar Caplan and Sons Jewelers

Block: 580 Lot: 18 Lot size: 23 ft. x 76 ft.
Height: 3 Materials: Stone
Condition: Good Owner: Brown's Arcade J.V.
Use: Commercial Accessible: Yes, unrestricted
Designation: Liber/Folio: CWM 4082/818



Historic Name:

Date: ca. 1928

Architect/Builder:

Style (if appropriate): Modern

Description:

The facade has a smooth ashlar stone covering with simple geometric ornamentation. The first floor storefront has a center recessed entrance between display windows. A fixed transom with vertical muntins unites the store facade. A narrow flat molding band with a central keystone is above the storefront. A flat raised panel above this has applied letters spelling out "Oscar Caplan". The second and third floors have identical fenestration. Each has a group of five 1/1 windows with plain surrounds and separated by engaged columns. Above the third floor group is a central keystone. A frieze outlined by simple moldings has dogtooth and circular ornamentation. An unusual feature of this facade is the retention and treatment of the passage on the south corner of the building. Few Charles Street facades still have discernible passages, although it was a common element in the early 19th century rowhouse. The opening is closed by a modern metal door under a shallow blind arch with a flat circular shape in the tympanum.

Significance:

Area: architecture

Level: local

The facade of the Caplan store is similar to that of 313 North Charles in its transition between the Classical Revival of the early 20th century and the Modern styles of the 1930's. It retains some Classical details in the columns framing the windows and the placement of the keystones and frieze, but these are in a flat, stripped-down style. The original rowhouse, dating from about 1810-1820, was the residence of Henry R. Hazelhurst, an iron founder in the mid-1850's. It remained in the Hazelhurst family until 1900. In 1911, the Charles D. Fisher Estate hired Lawrence H. Fowler to design a facade and interior staircase for the Dutch Tea Room at 314. The resulting quaint aspect (see attached photocopy) was such a departure from the Classical Revival style then popular along Charles Street that H.L. Mencken was moved to give his approval: "In a street filled with houses of abominable ugliness, the facade of this one immediately arrests the eye. It has color, it has character, it has distinction..." (See attached for complete quote.) In the late 1920's, A.H. Fetting jewelers occupied the building and the present facade was probably built at that time. The Fetting store remained at 314 until the late 1970's.

Fowler collection, JHU Evergreen House; ES 11-28-11; DR 1-21-11;

Sources: City directories.

Surveyor and Date: Janet Davis, February 1985

B-2161

314 North Charles Street

Evening Sun, Nov. 28, 1911:

P. 6: "The Free Lance" H. L. Mencken

"A paragraph of praise for whoever designed the new building at 314 North Charles Street. In a street filled with houses of abominable ugliness, the facade of this one immediately arrests the eye. It has color, it has character, it has distinction -- and buildings of distinction are almost as rare in Baltimore as Prominent Baltimoreans of sense."



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Facade, Dutch Tea Room
314 North Charles Street
(Now Oscar Caplan & Sons Jwlr.)
Ca. 1911
L. H. Fowler Collection,
Eisenhower Library,
Johns Hopkins University

Baltimore Metrocenter Survey
Cathedral Hill Area
314 North Charles Street
B-2161

A black and white photograph of a storefront. The building is made of light-colored stone or concrete. There are two rows of windows, each with four vertical dividers. The name "Oscar Caplan" is mounted on the wall between the windows. Below the name is a dark awning with a striped valance. The awning has some faint, illegible markings on it. The left side of the image shows a brick wall and a downspout.

Oscar Caplan

314 North Charles Street B-2161
Cathedral Hill - Metrocenter Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Photo: Janet Davis
Date: August 1984
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
East elevation

B-2161
MAG#0421615711

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

Block 580
lot 18

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON: 314 N. Charles - A.H. Fetting Co.				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: 314 N. Charles				
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY:		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment				
<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum				
<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific				
<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Arcade Realty Corp.				
STREET AND NUMBER: 501 St. Paul Place, Suite 1009-11				
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore		STATE: Maryland		21202
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Records Office, Room 601				
STREET AND NUMBER: Baltimore City Courthouse				
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore		STATE: Maryland		21202
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): JFC 2340-210				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: City of Baltimore Neighborhood Survey				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation				
STREET AND NUMBER: Room 900, 26 S. Calvert St.				
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore		STATE: Maryland		21202

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

314 North Charles^{ES}, lot# 18, is an attached building with a front facade of stone. It has three stories, one bay and a stone watertable. Between the buildings on lots 18 and 19 there is an alleyway shared by the two lots.

The first story is a store front consisting of a central rectangular door with a small vestibule. There are two large panes on either side of the vestibule. Over each pane there is an eyebrow window which appears to be seven windows connected, each window having three by three panes of leaded glass. A straight arched lintel of stone is over the eyebrow windows. Between the first and second stories there is a belt course showing FETTING in metal letters.

The second story has five windows, each 1x2 panes which are separated by engaged columns. There are no lintels but wooden sills painted brown.

The windows of the third story are similar to those previously described. A stone arched lintel springs over the bay. Above the lintel there is a freeze showing an alternating circle and square design. A stone cornice lies above the freeze hiding a flat roof.

The back of the building is connected to a parking lot and is not exposed. The building is in proportion~~XXX~~ with other attached buildings on Charles street.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

see 512 (Cathedral)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

23 x 75

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Nancy Venditti, Amanda McQuiddy, Achesah O'Donovan

ORGANIZATION

CHAP

DATE

11/20/75

STREET AND NUMBER:

Calvert
26 S. Calvert Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

ST.

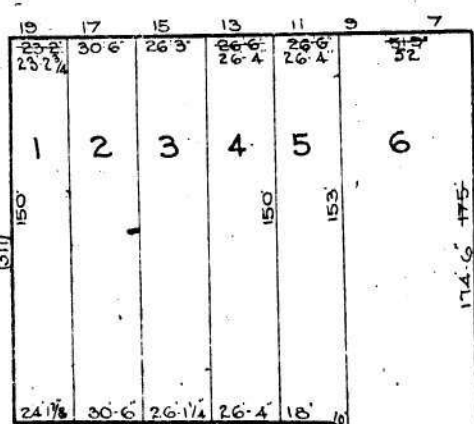
W. MULBERRY

ST.

ST.

CATHEDRAL

N. LIBERTY



W. PLEASANT

ST.

N. SHARP

N. SHARP

ST.

ST.

ST.

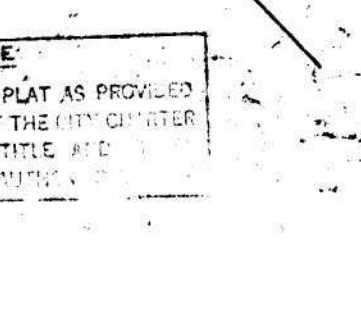
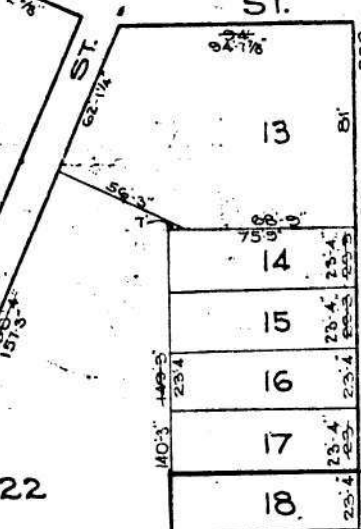
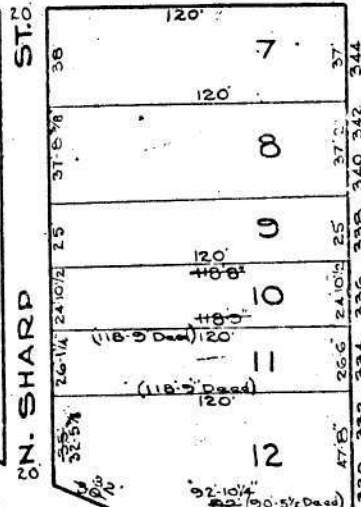
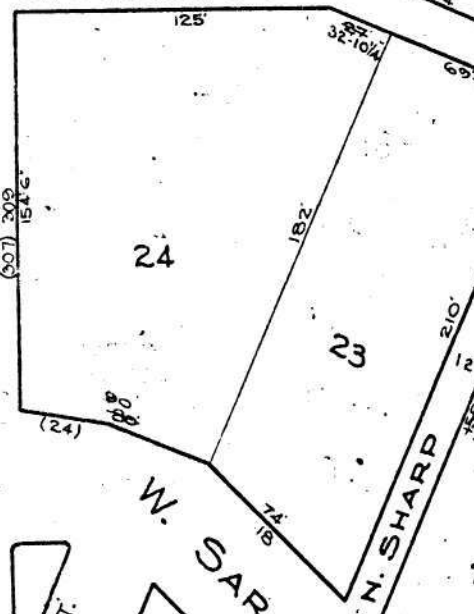
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N. CHARLES

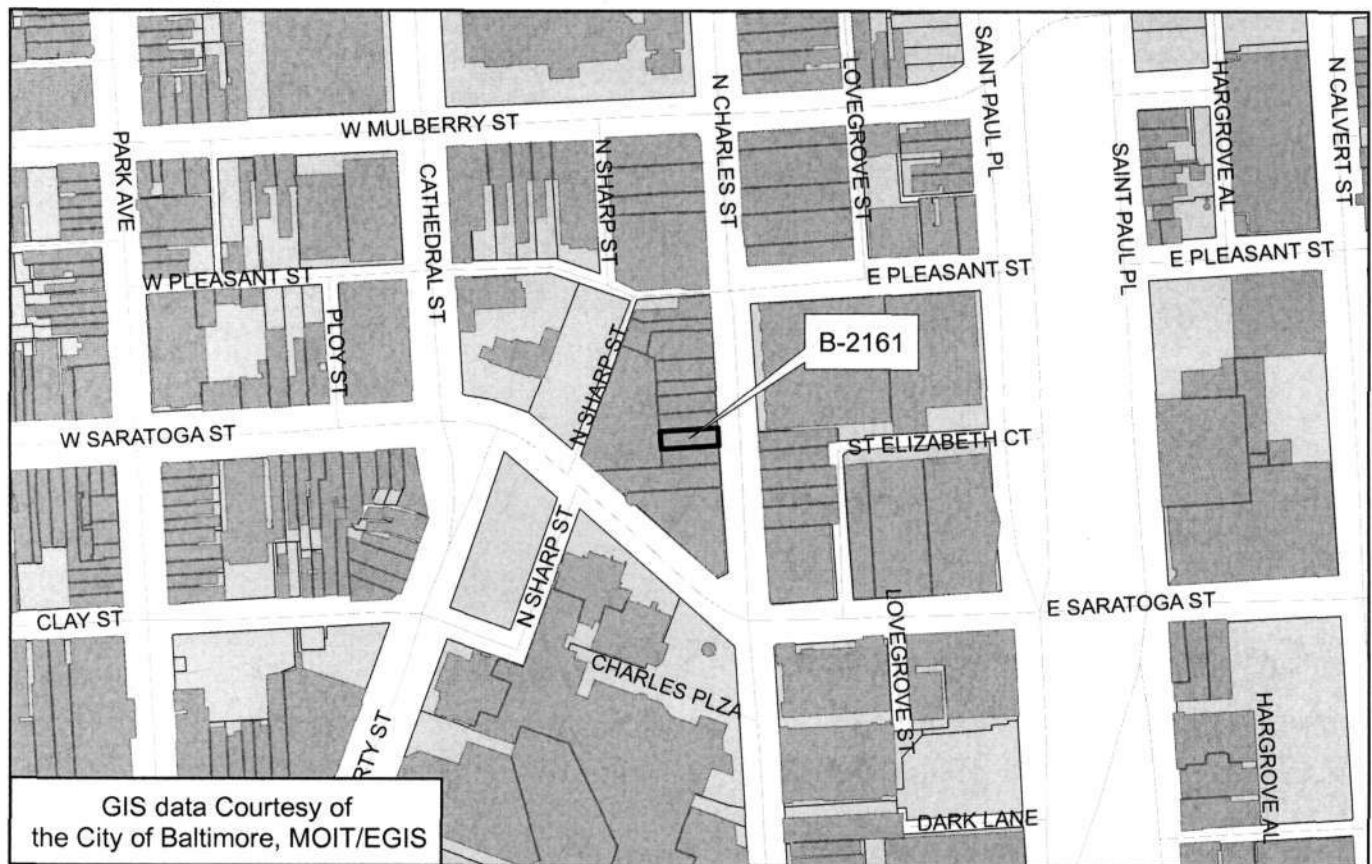
NOTICE

THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76M OF THE CITY CHARTER. IT IS CONTAINED FROM TITLE AND SOURCES AS NOTED ON EACH LOT.

CITY OF BALTIMORE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
BUREAU OF PLANS & SURVEYS
PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION
WARD 4 SECTION 2
BLOCK 580
SCALE: 1"=30' (SEE CITY CHARTER)

D BY: W. M. J. R. R.
ENTERED BY: J. S. R. R.
REVIEWED BY: W. M. J. R. R.

B-2161
Oscar Caplan & Sons, Jewelers (A. H. Fetting Co., Dutch Tea Room)
314 N. Charles Street
Block 0580 Lot 018
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad





B-2161

Block 580

Sept. 1975

314 N. Charles St.
